

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03729 051426Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----021351 051429Z /50

O R 051350Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8555
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
WHITE HOUSE WASHDC

S E C R E T BEIRUT 3729

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, PINT, LE
SUBJ: LEBANON: NEXT STEPS

REF: STATE 168926

1. IDEA PROPOSED IN REFTTEL, I.E., WITHDRAWAL OF SYRIANS FROM FLASHPOINTS, HAS MERIT. SOMETHING OF THE SORT WAS ALREADY IN PROGRESS UNDER RECENT SECURITY ARRANGEMENT WHICH GAVE CONTROL OVER MT. LEBANON TO LEBANESE ARMY AND OVER NORTH LEBANON TO SYRIANS. SOMETHING ALONG THIS LINE WAS ALSO BEGUN TENTATIVELY IN BEIRUT PRIOR TO FAYYADIYAH, BUT THAT INCIDENT AND ITS SEQUELS, PLUS MOSLEM AGITATION OVER CONFESIONAL IMBALANCE IN ARMY, LED TO A RETREAT FROM THE IDEA.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 03729 051426Z

2. THERE WOULD BE DIFFICULTIES IN APPLYING SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT TO BEIRUT ITSELF, HOWEVER. WE DOUBT THE SYRIANS WOULD AGREE TO WITHDRAW FROM EAST BEIRUT AND STILL AGREE TO SURROUND SABRA AND CHATILA CAMPS, OR OTHER PARTS OF WEST BEIRUT. WE THINK THEY WOULD CONSIDER THAT AS INCONSISTENT WITH THEIR VIEW THAT THEY SHOULD BE FREE TO STATION TROOPS ANYWHERE IN THE CITY AND THAT THEY ARE HERE TO POLICE CHRISTIANS AS WELL

AS PALESTINIANS. WE SUSPECT THEY WOULD CHOOSE TO WITHDRAW TOTALLY FROM BEIRUT RATHER THAN JUST POLICE THE PALESTINIANS HERE.

3. SECONDLY, THERE IS PROBLEM OF WHO WOULD REPLACE THEM. SARKIS IS AFRAID TO PUT LEBANESE TROOPS ALONG THE CONFRONTATION LINE AND IN WEST BEIRUT BECAUSE HE THINKS THEY WILL BE BASHED BY THE PALESTINIANS AND LEFTISTS. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THERE ARE ENOUGH NON-SYRIAN TROOPS IN THE ADF TO DO THE JOB ALONG THE LINE AND IN WEST BEIRUT IN GENERAL. AN INCREASE IN THE SAUDI AND SUDANESE CONTINGENTS WOULD HELP. WE DO NOT KNOW HOW REALISTIC A PROSPECT THAT IS.

4. THIRDLY, THERE IS PROBLEM OF SYRIAN INTENTIONS. ARE THEY ONLY RESPONDING TO PROVOCATIONS, DEFENDING THEMSELVES AND SEEKING TO DISCIPLINE THE MARONITES IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN SARKIS AS THEY CLAIM, OR DO THEY SEEK TO DESTROY THE PHALANGE AND CHAMOUNIST MILITARY CAPABILITY IN BEIRUT? ARE THEY SEEKING LIMITED, SPECIFIC POLITICAL GOALS OR ARE THEY WORKING TOWARDS THE EVENTUAL TAKEOVER OF LEBANON. OR IS THE SAVAGERY OF THEIR BOMBARDMENTS ON JULY 1, 2, AND 3 MERELY RIFAAT ASSAD TAKING REVENGE AGAIN FOR EHDEN? (WE ASSUME THE BEKAA MASSACRE WAS HIS FIRST BLOW IN THAT RESPECT.) WE WOULD LIKE TO THINK THAT THEY ARE ONLY RESPONDING TO PROVOCATIONS, BUT THE SPEED AND MAGNITUDE OF THEIR RESPONSE TO SOME FAIRLY ROUTINE EVENTS, BY LOCAL STANDARDS, MAKES US WONDER. IF THEY
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 03729 051426Z

ARE AFTER SOMETHING BIGGER, THEY ARE NOT GOING TO BE INTERESTED IN SOMETHING LESSER.

5. IN ANY EVENT, WILL TRY TO DISCUSS WITH BOUTROS AT FIRST OPPORTUNITY. PARKER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, COMBAT OPERATIONS, CONTINGENCY PLANNING, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BEIRUT03729
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: //////////////////////////////////////
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P850083-2469
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780797/aaaaddes.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: eeb47c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, EXDIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 168926
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2120122
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANON: NEXT STEPS
TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, PINT, MOPS, LE, SY
To: STATE SS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/eeb47c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014